

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed October 17, 2006 (the "Office Action"). As of the date of the Office Action, claims 1-30, 32-41, 58, 82-84, 154, 156, 158 and 161-164 were pending in this application. Claims 44-48, 153, 157, 159 and 160 were cancelled in a previous amendment without prejudice. New claims 165 and 166 have been added in this amendment. Claims 1-5, 12, 14, 39-41 and 82-84 have been allowed.

Section 102 and 103 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 10, 44-47 and 153 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,630,363 to Hartung et al. ("Hartung"). The Examiner also rejected claims 6-9, 11, 15-18, 20-23, 25-28, 58, 161 and 162 as being unpatentable over Hartung in view of U.S. Pat. No. 4,841,903 to Bird. Claims 17-29, 33-38, 154, 156-158, 160 and 163-164 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hartung in combination with other references, as noted in paragraphs 3-11 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully traverse each of the rejections and respectfully request reconsideration of the Response (incorporated herein by reference), as well as the Joint Declaration and Supplemental Declaration ("Joint Declaration") filed August 11, 2006. In particular, the Examiner has objected to the Joint Declaration as not supporting conception of the invention. However, the purpose of such Declaration was to evidence diligence. The prior declarations were submitted to show conception. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections under Section 102 and 103, and allowance of all pending claims.

Request for Interview

Given the nature of this case and the lengthy prosecution history, Applicants believe that an interview will serve to clarify any specific questions/issues the Examiner may have and will serve to advance the prosecution of the application. Applicants will contact the Examiner in the next several weeks to determine a suitable time in which the interview may be conducted.

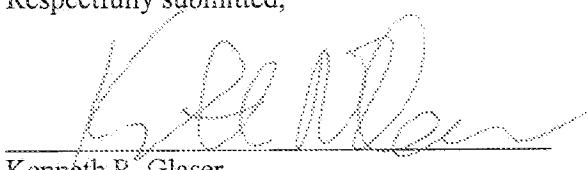
Conclusion

To the extent that any further fees are required during the pendency of this Application, including petition fees, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees, including, without limitation, any fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or 37 C.F.R. § 1.17, to Deposit Account No. 07-0153 of Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP and reference Attorney Docket No. 111667-1000. In the event that any additional time is needed for this filing, or any additional time in excess of that requested in a petition for an extension of time, please consider this a petition for an extension of time for any needed extension of time pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 or any other section or provision of Title 37. Applicants respectfully request that the Commissioner grant any such petition and authorize the Commissioner to charge the

Deposit Account referenced above. Please credit any overpayments to this same Deposit Account. This is intended to be a complete response to the Office Action mailed October 17, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

November 1, 2007



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